

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. TWO VIEWS ON SALT

A. THE CHINESE VIEW

PRC CHARGE WANG CHIN-CHING TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW ON APRIL 4
HE WAS NOT SURPRISED THE SOVIETS HAD REJECTED THE TWO
AMERICAN SALT PROPOSALS. ACCORDING TO WANG:

--THE SOVIETS READILY AGREED TO VLADIVOSTOK SINCE
THEY COULD CONTINUE TO BUILD ARMS. THE "DEEP CUTS"
PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED BECAUSE THE SOVIETS "WILL NEVER
AGREE TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS."

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--THE SOVIETS REJECTED THE "FALLBACK PACKAGE" TO GAIN
TIME TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CRUISE MISSILE.

--THE REJECTION OF BOTH SALT PACKAGES SHOWS THE HYPOC-
RISY OF MOSCOW'S ALLEGED INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WANG'S REMARKS ARE HARDLY SURPRISING FROM A PRC OFFICIAL. WANG MADE NO CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE US, BUT WAS CLEARLY PLEASED THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAD NOT PRODUCED A BREAKTHROUGH.

B. THE YUGOSLAV VIEW

YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SMOLE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TOON ON APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP. SMOLE, WHO IS WELL INFORMED ON THE LOCAL SCENE, SAID THE SOVIETS:

--FOUND OUR SALT PROPOSAL FOR DEEP CUTS "OUTRAGEOUS;" AND

--WERE GENUINELY SHOCKED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 30 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FORCED THEM TO STAGE A GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE IN REBUTTAL.

SMOLE ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW GROMYKO HAD MADE TWO ERRORS. FIRST, HIS ARGUMENTATION WAS TOO LEGALISTIC TO GET MUCH SYMPATHY FROM A WORLD EAGER FOR SUPERPOWER DISARMAMENT. SECOND, HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ALWAYS TAKEN THE LEAD ON DISARMAMENT SOUNDED PATRONIZING. IN FUTURE TALKS, SMOLE WARNED, WE MAY SEE PREEMPTIVE SOVIET PROPAGANDA SPECTACULARS DESIGNED TO WARD OFF THE EFFECTS OF ANOTHER PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 4624 AND 4625, 4/6.)

2. FRG POSITION ON MBFR
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EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THAT SPD LEADER WEHNER, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAVE RECENTLY ISSUED STATEMENTS ON MBFR.

--WEHNER, MARCH 29, SUGGESTED THAT TROOP REDUCTIONS BE "SIMULTANEOUS, SYMMETRICAL AND UNIVERSAL" AND THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE EAST'S "FREEZE" PROPOSAL.

--SCHMIDT, MARCH 30, AFFIRMED THE FRG POSITION ON EVENTUAL PARITY WHILE REFUSING TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FREEZE AS LONG AS AGREEMENT ON FURTHER MBFR STEPS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

--GENSCHER, APRIL 6, STATED THAT: (A) MBFR CAN ONLY BE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED ON THE BASIS OF AN ALLIANCE POSITION; (B) PARITY REMAINS A KEY ELEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS; (C) THE COLLECTIVITY PRINCIPLE MUST

BE PROTECTED; AND (D) A FREEZE OF EXISTING TROOP STRENGTHS OR EVEN THEIR SYMBOLIC REDUCTION ARE UNACCEPTABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE INTERPRET WEHNER'S COMMENTS AS A CRY OF FRUSTRATION THAT NOTHING MUCH SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AS A SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE GERMANS WISH DETENTE TO CONTINUE. GENSCHER'S CONFIDANTS TOLD US THAT HIS INTERVIEW WAS DESIGNED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT THAT THE FRG POSITION WAS THE ALLIANCE POSITION, AND THAT LEADING SPD FIGURES DID NOT SPEAK FOR THE GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 6097, 4/6.)

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